

the school and adapt himself to the character and needs of his pupils.—
Wisconsin Journal of Education.

PARENTS READ!—The Secretary of the Prison Association of New York, W. M. F. Round, has written a most valuable and timely article for the *N. Y. Independent*, on "Crime Beginning and Crime Prevention," which, did our space permit, we should be glad to transfer to our columns, but we must limit ourselves to an extract:

"Day by day I see criminals, hundreds of them—thousands of them in the course of the year. I see scores of broken-hearted parents, wishing rather that their sons had never been born, than they had lived to bear such burdens of shame and disgrace. I hear the wailing of disappointed mothers, and see humiliated fathers crying like children, because of the sins of their children. I see mothers growing gray between the successive visits in which they come to inquire about the boy in prison. And seeing these dreadful things till my heart aches and aches, I say to those mothers and fathers whose boys have not yet gone astray, to mothers and fathers whose little families are the care of their lives, teach your children *obedience*. I want it written large. I wish I could make it blaze here in letters of fire. I wish I could write it in imperishable, glowing letters on the wall of every home—*obedience, obedience, obedience!* Obedience to law—to household law; to parental authority; unquestioning, instant, exact obedience. Obedience in the family; obedience in the school. Wherever, from the beginning, from the first glimmering of intelligence in the child, there is expression of law, let there be taught respect for it and obedience to it. It is the royal road to virtue, to good citizenship; it is the only road. Teach also the clear

distinction between mine and thine. Let the line be unwavering. Let there be no quibbling with terms, and the distinction can not be taught in a family where it is not observed. Where debts are contracted carelessly and paid reluctantly, honesty can not be the dominating principle. In such a moral atmosphere there is contamination. There is poison that will come out in things counted more shameful than debts. Educate a boy in such a way that he shall think it of no consequence whether the milk bill is paid from one year's end to another, and you educate him to take his employer's money, with the vague intention of replacing it some time. Educate a boy to think better of himself in a fine coat, whether the tailor's bill be paid or not, and you so weaken his moral sense that he can not resist temptation, when the opportunity comes of gratifying his vanity by stealing. Make a boy think that a high social position is the first thing to be thought of in the world, and he will sacrifice his moral principles for that position. It is frequently said, in my hearing: "How strange it is that so many children of respectable parents go astray!" To which I always answer: "It is strange that so few of them go astray." But it is not respectability that sends them astray, it is sham respectability. It is a false, sentimental idea of the love due to children that makes them disobedient; the easy-going, tender-hearted, doting parent that can't bear the sight of a child's pain, and spares itself the sight at the peril of the child's future. It is the mother's and the father's cruel selfishness that spares the child. It is the sickening yearning after "gentility," the willingness to buy a sham social position at any expense, that ruins many a boy and many a girl. The parents would rather hear how well their children stand socially, than to hear how good and upright